

THE DEMOCRAT.

W. W. KITCHIN, - - - Editor.

Thursday, Oct. 22, 1885.

Civil Service Reform.

We prefer a Democrat to a Republican of equal character.

No honest and true Republican asks to be retained, and none others should be retained. In the South a sweep with a clean broom is demanded by all Democrats.

"Turn the rascals out."

TENDENCIES TO MONARCHY AND CONSOLIDATION.

Let no man close his eyes to the glaring demonstrations manifested daily of these tendencies. When the enemy to republican institutions advances so far, and gains such a firm foothold, and builds his ramparts around his battalions so powerful and strong, that he cannot be routed without bloodshed, it may then be too late to give the alarm, to save the temple of liberty reared by the father of his country and his associates.

We think we see the Monster with his shaggy body and lion head, wrapped in a silken velvet gown advancing on the citadel of our hopes. We hope we are mistaken, but no evil can arise from sounding the alarm. Rome kept soldier sentinels upon the Watch Towers of her freedom to sound the trumpet upon the advance of the enemy. With our civilization, attainments, refinements, Christianity and inborn love for freedom, shall we do less?

For twenty long, cloudy, dark years, when the constitution was buried out of sight beneath the rolling billows of party strife, internal feuds, personal hate and the spirit of despotism and destruction, the democracy of this country, although powerless to rescue the palladium of our liberties in the out-set, did, we had hoped, so much toward the salvation of the constitution, that we thought it's final and complete rescue, and Establishment would be an easy job. And especially did we look to its consummation with joy and pride when the result of the November elections was proclaimed to the world. For a longer period than the writer's natural life, had the democracy denounced the usurpations of the republican party. For more than twenty years had it hurled its invective and Philipics against the wrongs, ostrages, usurpations and inroads upon the constitution, the rights of the States and the reserved rights of the people by that party.

From every hill-top, house-top, and mountain top in the land, democratic leaders, speakers and writers, proclaimed it, and its agencies as an enemy to the constitution, to the sovereign powers of the States, to the reserved rights of the people.

Nearly all its doings were denounced by democratic Statesmen in both houses of Congress, as tending directly to centralization, consolidation and to the destruction of the Federal union and constitution. It was boldly asserted, and contradiction challenged, that the whole body politic, from head to foot, from foot to head was corrupt, and that each department of the government was so many hot beds for the procreation and birth of political thieves, rail road jobs and enemies of a republican form of government, and enemies, deadly enemies to democratic principles, democratic practices and democratic doctrines.

But it is useless to reconstruct the alleged wrongs and violations of the constitution by the Republican party the last twenty years and utterly impossible for it could not be penned in a thousand years by a thousand experts.

And in our unsophisticated mind, we believed and still believe that where there was so much smoke, there must have been some fire.

Now to restore the constitution, to restore the unity of the States to make the union perpetual, to purify the government, to clean out the departments, these hot beds of wickedness and corruption, to get rid of all corrupt agencies and all instrumentalities is the great and grand purpose the people had in view, in driving and banishing the republican party from power.

If the consummation of these grand designs were not in their minds in citing them to action in the last campaign, then all our statesmen, orators, stumpers, and newspaper men were far meaner and more hypocritical than the sycophants South who whined and bellowed about Grant's greatness and goodness.

For not one spoke or wrote, but did it on this style. Now was all this to do about the corruption, fraud, wrongs, usurpations and monarchical tendencies of the republican party a lie, a slander, a political maneuver and subterfuge to deceive and mislead the people and gain power, and to capture the government? We don't believe it. We believe the leaders meant business. We believe

the people meant business. We believe the people had the object above specified in view. When they elected a democratic administration or thought they were electing a democratic administration.

Every body felt the republican party and its agents had controlled the policy of the government long enough. The people wanted a change, a radical change. They had tried the republican theories of government and Republican agencies, and tools for more than twenty years and at the expiration of that period, declared their dissatisfaction with the workings of the whole Republican machine. They declared that they wanted to return to the old, honest, best way of democracy.

They declared to the world that they wanted the constitution and union restored to their original purity grandeur and simplicity. They said they were neither in favor of consolidation, centralization nor monarchy. They declared they were not in favor of retaining one party and one set of office holders in power and in office for life. They said, like the father of his country that a frequent change of men and officers in the political world, was the surest and safest guarantee to the people of the perpetuation of their liberties.

And after all this there are men even in the South as well as in the North who are in favor of and are advocating the retention by Mr. Cleveland in office the present agencies and tools of the defeated party. Strange doctrine for a democrat!

We can neither comprehend it nor understand it on any other theory than toadyism or antagonism to democratic principles.

So thoroughly convinced were our old fashioned democracy and old fashioned statesmen, that frequent change in office was indispensable to an honest administration of public affairs that one democratic administration succeeding another called for a change of all the subalterns as well as the heads of departments. With but few exceptions no man was allowed to remain in office longer than four or eight years at most. But in these modern times, and with our modern democracy, not only is a democrat, who by hook or crook gets in, to be retained for life, but even the republicans who have been in for ten or twenty years are to be retained during their natural lives, unless, upon expensive investigation the incumbent can be shown to be an "offensive partisan," besides there are more than a thousand definitions to that phraseology, either one of which Mr. Cleveland or his pets can adopt as way suit their fancy or purpose. Not only this, these republican officials are to be promoted in case one should die or resign, or be removed for cause whose salary was a little larger. In future these are to be promoted in each department just as a third Lieutenant goes from the lowest rank in a regiment to the highest.

And this is called democracy! Civil Service Reform! Purifying the government! Raising the standard of public servants! Building up the democratic party upon the bed rock of eternal justice, everlasting permanency! All this tends to centralization, to despotic government. It points directly to class power, class rule. It points to official greatness and power, a powerful ruling class and to weak serving class of serfs or slaves. When this becomes a fixture in our government then indeed will our rulers and official aristocracy be our masters and lords and we be their slaves, political slaves, hewers of wood and drawers of water, without price and without money.

If we were all perfect, infallible with neither spot nor blemish in our human nature, this unjust, undemocratic despotic system of life tenure might rank well, but since sin crept as a serpent in the garden of Eden and made man's heart lie unto a cage of unclean birds and desperately wicked, it will not do in a Republican form of government. And the sooner the people are heard from on this subject, the sooner this damnable heresy will be rooted out of politics. There is no civil service reform in it. It is exactly the reverse. The only permanent, true civil service reform is to turn the defeated party out and all its agencies and put the successful party in and its agencies. This was the plea of the fathers. It is good enough for the sons.

A wine merchant in Hamburg has bequeathed 1,000 thalers per annum, the interest of his capital, to the baldest man in the city, with the proviso that should a man turn up with no hair at all on his head, he is to have the entire capital.

CIVIL SERVICE LAW.

We rejoice to know that so many men, especially the working Democrats, those who have given their time and all their powers to the welfare of their country, those who have through honest patriotism toiled for the success of the Democratic party, we say that we rejoice that so many such men are found fighting the Civil Service Law. Being a Republican should constitute offensive partisanship in the mind of any Democrat and vice versa. There should be no law to designate those suitable for certain positions. The president and others who appoint should not be restrained by any law but on the contrary they should have the greatest liberty to select whom they see fit for any office and select either from the ranks of the party they represent or from the opposing party. Those who have the power to appoint should be trusted as to their judgment and they would always select men capable of performing the duties of the offices. The question of partisanship should not enter the case and neither should non partisanship. A man's being a partisan, a bitter and earnest partisan should be of no weight whatever either in his favor or against him as regards his fitness for being appointed to any office whatsoever. A man's being a non-partisan, a gentle, mild and timid man, perhaps never having cast a vote should be no unobscured as far as concerns his appointment to any office. But what ever be his partisanship let his principles be in harmony with those of the appointer or the party he represents. Let his heart, his principles be right, however much or however little he displays them. When a candidate for office is supposed by the appointer to hold pure and correct political views his partisanship should not be counted against him by any means but on the contrary those who have aided the supposed good and now successful cause should be given the preference every time over those only their equals in other respects. Is he honest? Is he competent? Is he faithful to the constitution? These three questions should be enough law on this subject. The Civil Service Law and the Civil Service Commission should be blotted out forever and in their stead the above three questions should be placed and then forever let the president and the appointers select whom they please from those who answer the questions in the affirmative and if the people are not then suited they will soon notify those who make the blunder.

There is no doubt in the world that Cleveland is heartily endorsing the Civil Service humbug. Dorman B. Eaton has, as is now known, resigned the chairmanship of the Civil Service Commission. Eaton is a Republican of deep dye and he has seemed to be Mr. Cleveland's right hand man in all his appointments. Mr. Cleveland was elected by Democrats and no doubt from their ranks could be selected one very suitably to fill the place soon to be vacated by D. B. Eaton, Esq. Perhaps you would guess that the President would choose some Democrat for that position. Yes a Democrat even a timid and non-partisan Democrat if not an old, true and tried Democrat. But no you would be mistaken for Mr. Cleveland has already chosen Eaton's successor and the chosen one is apt to accept. He has taken a Mugwump. This Mugwump is from Republican Massachusetts. His name is Charles R. Codman. Mr. Cleveland shall learn a lesson from experience yet and it seems that a sad experience will yet have to cause him to beware of Mugwumps and Republicans.

A patriot should always be recognized and when a great patriot can be honored he should be. The South is still the home of patriots. Many of her sons still love to dream of her old days. Many of her men to day firmly tread the paths marked out by her patriotic statesmen of other days. Many of us still believe and ever shall that the favors of the government should be bestowed not upon political enemies but always upon political friends. Not that the friend has a right to demand a favor for himself but that when it becomes a question between the friend and a foe as to whom the gift already and inevitably present should be given then we say that the friend should obtain it. Right and the verdict of the world will attest the same thing. Life tenure of office is dangerous, it is monarchical, it tends toward centralization. Rotation in office is the safe-guard of a free

people and our entire system is based upon it. And those who favor life tenure of office in the subordinate offices, should for consistency's sake, favor a life tenure of the Presidency or upon good behavior. The President is an officer of the people. He has duties, just as the smaller officers and why is it that some favor the tenure of office upon good behavior as to the latter and are not in favor of being consistent and wishing an all life President. Think about this.

We are exalted to the third heavens at the idea of Mr. Cleveland and Mr. Whitney going to New York to vote for David B. Hill as governor. It is such an unusual thing, and requires such an immense amount of patriotism, and is such a grand and noble act in a President and Secretary to go home and vote for Mr. Hill the democratic nominee for governor of New York, Mr. Manning and the President deemed it wise and proper to satisfy the world at large, that they would go home and vote for Mr. Hill.

That settles it, of course Mr. Hill will be elected, Mr. Cleveland's and Mr. Manning's votes will be equal to any other two votes cast in the State by the two blackest negroes in it. Be easy Mr. Hill. Heavenly democracy! Pass it up and down that "all is well," the biggest man in America, the head and summit of the democracy will vote the democratic ticket and for Mr. Hill at that.

Glory hallelujah, praise the Lord—Mr. Cleveland and his financial Secretary, have both resumed their citizenship. Where is Dorman Eaton, Judge Thomas and Gregory? This is "offensive partisan" conduct. The Civil Service Commission ought to move in solid column with bayonets fixed at double quick time, on the President and his Secretary to give as light on the subject.

Our esteemed contemporary the Asheville Citizen says: it cannot deny the proposition laid by the DEMOCRAT as to the tax on fertilizers and drummers. But thinks the argument would apply with equal force to all taxes. Of course if we were bound to have that much money, more than is raised from other sources, our argument would not apply with the same force. But we say that the Agricultural Department as managed is a nuisance, a humbug and a useless expense and burden to the taxpayers, and ought to be abolished and the tax removed from the dealers in and manufacturers of fertilizers.

If the State needs fifty thousand dollars to pay current expenses, why make the farmer pay it all, and exempt the lawyer, doctor, merchant and every other class. Is there any good reason why the farmers who use fertilizers should be made to pay fifty thousand dollars taxes to run the government, and release everybody else from paying any part of that fifty thousand dollars? If there is any excuse or reason for this, we are not able to see and would thank any one who will explain it.

We believe the property of the State ought to pay the taxes to run the government and not the avocations and callings in which the enterprising and business men are engaged. The State ought to encourage rather than hamper and fetter by taxation all business enterprises. Equation of taxation is what justice and the constitution both demand. And in our opinion, the only possible way to arrive at this contemplated equation is to tax property and the poll. We think any man, or any combination of men in our State ought to be allowed to manufacture commercial fertilizers to sell either in or out of the State without being taxed for that privilege except upon the capital invested, or they must give five hundred dollars to the State for the privilege of making a fertilizer. This is all wrong.

Every citizen of the State ought to be allowed to invest his money and engage in any legitimate business without paying to the State a bonus of \$500 for the privilege. Yes, abolish the agricultural department, the taxes on fertilizers and drummers. We think the tax on Drummers and Fertilizers is both unconstitutional and unjust, and ought to be abolished. As we said before, the consumers of the fertilizers and the goods pay the taxes, and this we are opposed to.

Should Mr. Cleveland put in practice his own ideas and notions of Civil Service reform, or those of the party that elevated him to power and place?

GOOD. Charles B. Coon, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, arrived from Washington yesterday, and went to the Fifth Avenue Hotel. He said in conversation that Secretary Manning had requested his resignation after twenty-years of service.

Secretary Manning, Mr. Coon said, expressed himself as well satisfied with his conduct and official acts, but said that the political exigencies of the moment required a Democrat in the office.—sun. Three cheers for Manning. He is our sort of a Democrat.—He is doing more than going home to vote.

We notice that some of our exchanges think that since Grant is dead all the unjust and bad things he did should be forgotten and they seem to think a contemporary is out of place in still speaking about him. To such of our exchanges we would gently remind them that it is the duty of every Southern man to forever do his all towards having everything connected with the war truthfully recorded. During times when death has gained our sympathies toward Grant we should, knowing that sympathies influence us, be the more careful to enter our plea against any untruthful act or word which is likely to be recorded as history. Excitement would even induce Southern papers to grow wild and give the soldier Grant, a wise statesman's place, and place him among the world's great philanthropists, Christian gentlemen and high toned heroes. We would remind them of some things which tend to cool their ardor down to a just point and we rejoice that a few other papers do the same thing.

Dr. Samuel A. Green has been temporarily appointed General Agent of the Peabody Education Fund. Three of the members of Fund have been appointed to office by Cleveland. They are Gov. Porter, Tennessee, Dr. Curry and Gen. H. R. Jackson, of Georgia. The Peabody places are good to hold if you wish to be in favor with the present Administration.—Star.

It is time for the president to realize that he was elected by the democratic party as a Democrat, and that he has ignored the most active men of that party, who labored night and day for his success. To err is human, but in his case the way to atonement is not difficult.—New York Daily News, Dem.

We notice the Advance has it Jabez Lafayette Monroe Curry, while other papers say it is Jabez Lamar Monroe Curry. How is that?

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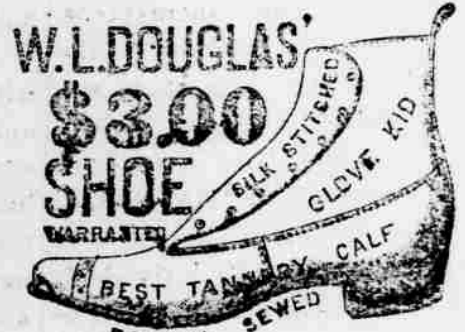
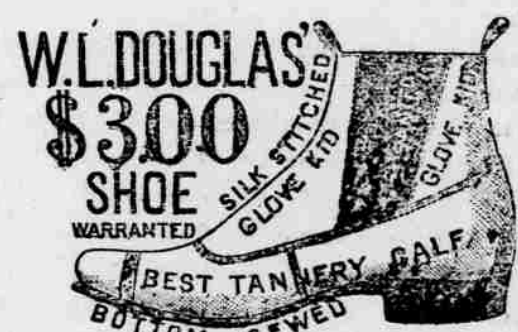
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